

Competitions Commission Meeting

Saturday 9th January 2016

National Volleyball Centre, Kettering

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by	: Laurence Shenker
Circulation	: Competition Commission
Distribution	: From Paul Bohannon

1.	Commissioners present and apologies for absence	
	Paul Bohannon	Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner
	Bill Boagey	Division 1 Commissioner
	Sarah Hill	Division 3 Women's Commissioner
	James Murphy	National Cup Commissioner
	Jonathan Moore	Competitions Manager
	Laurence Shenker	Competitions Administrator
	Apologies	
	Keith McAdam	Division 2 Men's Commissioner
	Kevin Hamblin	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
	Ade Mcgraa	Student Cup Commissioner
	Brian Kendall	U15 Commissioner
	Martin Shakespeare	Referee Liaison
	Rob Cook	International Events and Competitions Director
	Rohan West	Participation Director
	Sanjib Sahota	Major Events and Commercial Manager
		Will Westwood

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10:35

		Action
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>Previous minutes were circulated.</p> <p>PB highlighted the previous meeting scheduled for 26th September 2015 did not take place. The minutes circulated were from the meeting on the 10th May 2015.</p> <p>Refcom asked for any assistance they can get regarding the sourcing of referees in order to appoint referees to NVL/ Cup fixtures. A discussion has taken place regarding home teams sourcing their own second referees. It is felt by the Competitions Commission that this would be a backward step but is something that should be discussed with Refcom at the next meeting.</p>	<p>PB to add an agenda point into the next Competitions Commission meeting regarding the possibility of home teams sourcing second referees.</p>

<p>The NVL regulations were amended to show that Technical Timeouts are optional for divisional two and three. There have been mixed reviews on the withdrawal of technical timeouts. The feedback is that the majority of teams chose not to have them.</p> <p>The change from bench and coach cards to an online system was praised by the room as efficient and quick for teams involved.</p> <p>PB replied to Richard Harrison who has since left his position. Nothing has been heard for a long period of time. Since the initial recommendation, the Commission voted in favour to amend the NV regulations stating that all NVL teams must have a minimum level 2 coach by the 2018/19 season. This was put into the NVL regulations prior to the start of the current NVL season. A discussion took place regarding the current completion rate of level 2 courses. It was highlighted that a large proportion of those taking the course are not sending in their required information therefore not completing the course. There were no conclusions made.</p> <p>U18GP was discussed. Entries are very low this year meaning that two B teams have been invited in the men's section. In the women's side, the Competitions department have had to source another team to complete the 8. The results from the Competitions Review is that in all likelihood from the 2016-17 season the U18 GP will not be part of the calendar.</p> <p>The Junior Challenge Series was discussed. It was mentioned that while the series is a success overall, the Commission is still against having the teams enter the National League at the highest level. The original proposal suggested that the Junior Teams would look to enter the National League at a later date but as of yet, nothing has been put forward by the Talent department. A discussion took place regarding the impact of the current format of the Challenge Series for the Junior teams.</p> <p>Outstanding fines- PB is to talk to the finance department regarding the lack of information provided by the Finance department. The Commission discussed the current issues occurring with the 'new' finance system and the problems this lack of information is causing individual groups moving forward.</p> <p>U15's- BK has discussed the prospect of 4 vs 4 at the U15 level but has not been met with much positivity. Current entries are 8 boy's teams and 19 girl's teams. The deadline for entries is Monday 11th January. This issue has been highlighted prior to this season and is under review by the Competitions Review. Although agreed in the previous meeting, BK's proposal to change the finals to a final 8 has been overturned. This was due to the request by the Competitions Review to maintain all current formats until the review has been completed. Contrasting views have been heard by clubs who do not want 4 vs 4, yet the Competitions Review might suggest that there should be a 4 vs 4 competition feeding into a 6 vs 6 U15 Competition. There were no further conclusions.</p> <p>Regulation H7 vi- Jonathan Moore explained that it would be difficult to have a blanket rule in the regulations enabling teams to claim charges from a forfeiting team. A proposal was to include a line suggesting that any disagreements on paying a fee by the forfeiting team can be appealed. It was agreed in the room that the current sanctions are fair and will remain.</p> <p>Devon Storm/ London Lynx – There was an issue in previous seasons where by Devon Storm were forfeiting games too regularly. Since the previous commission meeting, Devon Storm have withdrawn from the NVL. Thus far they have not forfeited any game. London Lynx forfeited their final NVL match of the 2014-15 and received a £500 fine as a result. A Super 8 team who does forfeit their fixture now receives a 3-point deduction rather than the one in all other leagues as per the regulations.</p>	<p>Comps to send reminder to all NVL teams to have a level 2 by 2018/19 season.</p> <p>PB to contact the VE Finance department and discuss getting information that required.</p> <p>PB to chase this up.</p>
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	<p>Proposed changes to terms of reference were sent by PB to RC who informed PB that all changes were agreed. Currently nothing has changed on the Volleyball England website.</p> <p>Dress code at major events – It was agreed previously that a line would be created in the NVL Regulations to highlight the required dress code at major events. This has been done.</p> <p>The prospect of moving the Cup Finals to the Copper Box is still in the strategic planning however the initial idea was to host the 2015-16 Cup Finals at the Copper Box. This will now be pushed back to future years. Jonathan Moore explains that there is a large possibility that there will be another Legacy Cup hosted at the Copper Box Arena in late September. The event will be a three-day single gender event. A discussion took place by the Commission on whether the decision to have a single gender event was the correct decision. Concerns were raised regarding the value of the event and the impact on the organisation. The cost of the ticket pricing structure was questioned by the room. It was felt that for future Legacy Cup events, the cost of tickets should be reduced.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>All matters arising were discussed earlier in the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>Items for Ratification</p> <p>MVP's – The Commission agreed previously to remove the MVP's vote out. However, Volleyball England asked the Commission to include MVP's as it added value to the league. The Commission agreed. MVP votes are now hidden from view on the Volleyball England website. This reduces tactical voting. It was proposed that the Commission have a published formula to ensure that the final MVP is the correct choice at the end of the season.</p>	PB & James Murphy to create a formula to determine the final standing of MVP's in the NVL.
5.	<p>Outstanding Fines</p> <p>JM explains that he does not have up to date financial information.</p>	Jon Moore to discuss with the Finance department about getting up to date financial information as requested.
6.	<p>International Transfers</p> <p>131 ITC's to date with a cost of £2318.00 to NVL Teams. Compared to £10,400 last season. This is due to not having to pay the FIVB/ CEV on top of paying the Federation of origin. Jonathan Moore is unsure whether that will remain the same for future seasons. 63% of all International Transfers have been in the Super 8 Divisions with 37% in Division 1.</p> <p>We are now expected to process ITC's for all divisions instead of only Super 8s and Division 1.</p> <p>The sanctions of not completing an ITC when required is severe. A discussion took place regarding the challenges of completing International Transfers. Jonathan Moore explains the problems faced by working with the VIS system and the FIVB on International Transfers. The expectation is to be doing more transfers throughout the season and in future seasons unless there is another change to regulations.</p>	
7.	<p>Competitions Review</p> <p>RC has to report to the Board in February by which time the Competitions Review group has to provide their ideas for progression. A discussion took place led by Jonathan Moore about the current process of the Competitions review. PB pointed out that there are currently no delivery arms below the national competition level. The discussion continued onto what options there are available to Volleyball England to enable the regions to lead on</p>	

	<p>aspects of delivery for Volleyball England Junior Competitions. James Murphy and PB explained one of the proposals from the Senior review group is to change the Super 8s Division into a 10 team division. This would increase the number of league matches. As a result, the playoff format would also need to change. This would be single matches between the top 4 teams across a weekend. PB suggested looking at the promotion and relegation of each division. Jonathan Moore explained that we are reaching the maximum number of teams in the NVL with the current structure, however if the interest is there, further divisions should be created as this provides valuable income to the organisation.</p>	
8.	<p>Calendar 2016-17</p> <p>Jonathan Moore presented the draft 2016-17 calendar. The first issue raised was that the start of the Super 8 season is 10/11th September. Jonathan Moore explained that the International season finishes on 15th October and that those players requiring an International Transfer can play in the NVL up until that date providing that they meet the criteria set out. As of 16th October each player requiring one, must have an ITC. A list of competition start dates is to be sent to the FIVB/CEV.</p> <p>The question was asked whether the National Cup players required an ITC. It was pointed out that current regulations do not specify this and the cup is exempt from the ITC Regulations.</p> <p>Jonathan Moore went through each week of the draft 2016-17 calendar. Each week was discussed and changes implemented.</p> <p>London Legacy Cup is provisionally booked in for 24th – 25th September. The knock on effect of this is that it takes a weekend out of the season, which means less flexibility elsewhere in the calendar.</p> <p>NEVZA U19 Championships is due to be hosted across 27th -30th October. A venue has not been confirmed as of yet but it is most likely to be held at the National Volleyball Centre, Kettering. For the competition to go ahead with more free space on two courts at the NVC new post sockets will need to be installed. This would increase the number of competition days by one.</p> <p>Jonathan Moore to review potential changes to be made to the calendar as a result as the dates are confirmed by the NVC.</p> <p>It was pointed out that there would need to be a change to the NVL regulations to highlight that no NVL fixtures are to be played after the 30th April 2017.</p>	<p>JM to send a list to the FIVB of all VE Competition start dates.</p> <p>JM to review potential changes to be made to the calendar. LS to source alternative venues if required.</p> <p>WW/LS to amend the NVL regulations to highlight the 30th April 2017 final fixture date.</p>
9.	<p>NVL/ Cup Regulations Season 2016-17</p> <p>PB asks all in the room to raise any issues/ updates for regulations shortly as these will need to be agreed and completed in due course.</p> <p>Birmingham (M1) hosted an NVL fixture with equipment that was not deemed suitable. They therefore lost the match. A discussion was had regarding the current issues had with Birmingham. No conclusions or actions were made.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next two meetings</p> <p>Sunday 15th May 2016 at the National Volleyball Centre, Kettering. Saturday 10th September 2016 at SportPark, Loughborough</p>	<p>LS to book rooms for future meetings.</p>

<p>11.</p>	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>SH raised an issue that has occurred in W3N between Wirral Wasps VS Chester Amazons. It is felt that the scoresheet is unreliable and incorrect. (however there are external individuals who are of the opinion that the scoresheet is correct) The point was made that the Commission cannot be too involved currently as they may be required to be on an appeal panel. A discussion was had regarding how to move this process forward. The outcome is that SH has made her ruling and will present that to the teams in due course.</p> <p>A further issue was raised by SH regarding the rearrangement of a fixture. The home team has provided the opposition with five dates but as of yet have not heard back. The Commission commented that as a Divisional Commissioner it is the decision of the Commissioner in this instance to state a date of when the fixture is to be completed unless the teams come to an agreement.</p> <p>A Welsh side has approached VE to ask permission to play in the U15 Championships. The team would play under the Cardiff Celts umbrella and are happy to travel to the South West region to compete in the regional round. The Commission agreed that there were no objections to allowing this team to enter the competition.</p> <p>Jonathan Moore raised the potential issue of the England Junior Boys CEV round 2 clashing with the Cup Finals weekend. A potential solution to this would be to move the relevant fixture to the Super 8s finals weekend. No conclusion was made.</p> <p>The National Volleyball Centre have informed Volleyball England that the venue for Super 8s Finals weekend 2016 is unavailable until 6pm on the Friday. The impact on this would be that teams cannot train on the taraflex floor prior to the competition. It is suggested that the Super 8s weekend may be moved to another venue with potential at Birmingham and Nottingham's new venue. No clear conclusion was made.</p> <p>In his Commissioners report, MS raised the suggestion to remove triangular matches. The issue has been raised in the Competitions Review with strong support for triangulars in division 3. A further point was asking Divisional Commissioners not to agree to match rearrangements on the same weekend of Cup/Shield weekends. This creates increased pressure on the Referee Commission to find available referees. The Commission agreed to work together to ensure as best they can to reduce the number of fixtures on Cup weekends.</p> <p>A further point made by MS was regarding sending referees to support the delivery of low level competitions such as Junior and Student competitions. It was suggested in the room that less experienced referees should be sent to lower level competitions, as this would help them gain experience. Alongside this, an observer could also be in attendance as this would allow the referee to be mentored/ observed. There was a discussion around this but no further outcomes came from it.</p>	<p>SH to contact teams involved and inform them of her decision.</p> <p>Divisional Commissioners to refrain from allowing NVL fixtures to be rearranged on Cup/ Shield weekends.</p>
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